

1868
Oct. 2 or 3.

To Albert J. Wright.

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Dear Sir - I fully appreciate the compliment conveyed ~~to me~~ in your note, inviting me, in behalf of the City Rep. Com., to preside at a public meeting of Rep. at P. H. on Wednesday evening next, called to verify the State ticket. For various considerations, - which, in this connection, it is unnecessary to ~~specify~~ specify, - I must respectfully decline the invitation.

You have not ^{however,} misapprehended the interest I feel in the ~~results of the~~ approaching election, whether State or national. Since ^{the} ~~the~~ independence of this republic by the mother country, there have been times of trying trial, crises of momentous importance in regard to our national destiny, elections of immense significance as ~~potentially~~ showing the strength or weakness of our institutions. But it is certain that, in respect to the solemnity of its aspect and the bearing it will have upon our destiny as a people, no such ~~and~~ crisis has occurred in our history, no

such election has had connected with it such far reaching consequences. It is not a struggle, as in other times, for mere party pre-eminence, but a death-grapple between loyalty and treason, liberty and slavery, light & darkness; ~~at that I have no sympathy as to the result~~

It is truly fortunate that the lines are so clearly drawn between the opposing forces, and that so plain an issue is presented to the patriotism & conscience of the nation. The democracy which is sustained by rebel cheers, by rebel votes, ~~by rebels~~ is but another name for rebellion itself, and is equally detestable ~~because and assisted by de-legitimated~~ ~~men~~ can gain no loyal or patriotic support. The democracy which selects for its leaders such unscrupulous demagogues as Sherman & Blair, and such ~~murderous~~ ^{fanatical} fanatical spirits as Forrest, Hays-